Study Group on revision of royalty on coal

782. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 667 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th February, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Study Group to consider the question of revision of rate of royalty on coal has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the state Governments thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Study Group has considered all the suggestions made by concerned State Governments, Coal Consumers etc. and has made its recommendations regarding the enhancement of rates of royalty on coal and related matters.

(c) Study Group has already consulted the State Governments before making its recommendations. Another consultation with State Governments on the report at this stage is not considered necessary.

World trade organisation chief

783. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a search is on far a person to head the World Trade Organisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has a vast market for the products of a number of member countries of the Organisation and can play a major role in the affairs of the Organisation;

(c) if so, whether Government have proposed any name for the post; and

(d) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) India accounts for 0.6 per cent of the world trade. An Indian is presently working as Deputy Director General of GATT and is expected to continue to work in this capacity in the W.T.O.

Impact on coal Industry due to GATT

784. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the improvement and impact of coal industry due to GATT;

(b) what is the total amount of export by coal industry per year;

(c) which are the collieries whose export tops the export list;

(d) whether any booster is given to these exporters;

(e) if so, what are the plans; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government has no information about the impact of GATT on coal industry.

(b) The value of export coal for last three years is as under:

Year	Value (in Rs. crores)
1991-92 . . .	15.04
1992-93 . . .	50.02
1993-94 . . . (Provisional)	60.19

(Source: DGCIS)